Serial Number: 10/042580

Filing Date: January 9, 2002

Fitle: SYNCHRONIZATION OF DISPLAY INDICIA ON STANDALONE GAMING MACHINES

Assignee: WMS Gaming Inc.

IN THE CLAIMS

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Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating one of a plurality of display indicia on a gaming machine in synchronization with an adjacent gaming machine, the gaming machine including a display, an emitter a plurality of emitters, and a sensor plurality of sensors, the method comprising:
 - detecting a first signal from <u>an</u> the emitter of the adjacent machine at <u>one of</u> the <u>plurality</u>
 of sensors wherein the <u>one of the plurality of sensors</u> is positioned proximally to
 an the emitter of the adjacent gaming machine[,]; and
 - in response to the first signal, generating the <u>one of the plurality of</u> display indicia on the display and emitting a second signal from <u>one of</u> the <u>plurality of</u> emitters, <u>wherein</u> the one of the <u>plurality of display indicia</u> is selected from the <u>plurality of display indicia</u> based on which of the <u>plurality of sensors detects the first signal</u>.
- (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further including:
 detecting a game-related event in a game executed on the gaming machine; and
 in response to the game-related event, emitting the second signal from the one of the
 plurality of emitters.
- 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further including in response to the gamerelated event, generating other another display indicia of the plurality of display indicia on the display.
- 4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the game-related event is a bonus feature.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the display includes a plurality of lamps, and wherein the step of generating the <u>one of the plurality of</u> display indicia includes sequentially flashing the lamps.

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6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and <u>second</u> signals are light signals, the emitter being a light, the sensor being a photo sensor.

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- 7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the display includes a video display, and wherein the step of generating the <u>one of the plurality of</u> display indicia includes displaying an image of a moving object.
- 8. (Canceled)
- 9. (Currently Amended) A method of synchronizing display indicia on a plurality of gaming machines including respective displays, the method comprising: emitting a first <u>light</u> signal from an <u>a light</u> emitter on a first of the machines; detecting the first <u>light</u> signal at a <u>light</u> sensor on a second of the machines adjacent to the first of the machines, the <u>light</u> sensor on the second of the machines being proximate to the <u>light</u> emitter on the first of the machines; and in response to detecting the first <u>light</u> signal, generating display indicia on the display of the second of the machines and emitting a second <u>light</u> signal from an emitter on the second of the machines.
- 10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further including: detecting the second <u>light</u> signal at a <u>light</u> sensor on a third of the machines adjacent to the second of the machines, the <u>light</u> sensor on the third of the machines being proximate to the <u>light</u> emitter on the second of the machines; and in response to detecting the second <u>light</u> signal, generating display indicia on the display of the third of the machines.
- (Currently Amended) A gaming machine for generating display indicia in synchronization with an adjacent gaming machine, the machine comprising:
 a display;
 an a light emitter;
 - a light sensor for detecting a first light signal from the adjacent machine; and

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means, responsive to the first <u>light</u> signal, for generating the display indicia on the display and emitting a second <u>light</u> signal from the <u>light</u> emitter.

- 12. (Currently Amended) The machine of claim 11, further including means, responsive to a game- related event in a game executed on the machine, for emitting the second <u>light</u> signal from the <u>light</u> emitter.
- 13. (Original) The machine of claim 12, further including means, responsive to the gamerelated event, for generating other display indicia on the display.
- 14. (Original) The machine of claim 12, wherein the game-related event is a bonus feature.
- 15. (Original) The machine of claim 11, wherein the display includes a plurality of lamps, and wherein the generated display indicia include sequential flashing of the lamps.
- 16. (Canceled)
- 17. (Original) The machine of claim 11, wherein the display includes a video display, and wherein the generated display indicia include an image of a moving object.
- 18. (Currently Amended) The machine of claim 11, wherein the first <u>light</u> signal from the adjacent machine is emitted from an <u>a light</u> emitter on the adjacent machine, the <u>light</u> sensor being proximate to the <u>light</u> emitter on the adjacent machine.
- 19. (New) A gaming machine comprising:
 - a plurality of emitters, wherein the plurality of emitters is for emitting signals to a plurality of other gaming machines;
 - a plurality of sensors, wherein the plurality of sensors is for detecting signals from the plurality of other gaming machines; and
 - a display for displaying ones of a plurality of display indicia, wherein the ones of the plurality of display indicia can be selected for display based on which of the plurality of sensors detects a signal.

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(New) The gaming machine of claim 19, wherein the plurality of emitters includes a right 20. emitter and a left emitter, and wherein the plurality of sensors includes a right sensor and a left sensor.

- (New) The gaming machine of claim 19, wherein the display includes a plurality of 21. lamps, and wherein the ones of the plurality of display indicia include sequential flashing of the lamps.
- 22. (New) The gaming machine of claim 21, wherein the plurality of sensors includes a right sensor and a left sensor, and wherein the sequential flashing of the lamps includes, if the right sensor detects a signal, a left-to-right mode; and if the left sensor detects a signal, a right-to-left mode.
- 23. (New) The gaming machine of claim 19, wherein the ones of the plurality of display indicia can be selected for display based on a gaming event.
- 24. (New) The gaming machine of claim 19, wherein the plurality of emitters include light emitters and the plurality of sensors include light sensors.